

BANKER ACCUSED OF PREVENTING M'CALL SEARCH

Seward Prosser, Threatened
with Force, Is Haled
Before Committee.

PROMISE IS GIVEN
TO PRODUCE BOOKS

Commissioner Wood, Questioned
About Corporation Stock Own-
ership, Makes Angry Replies.

Seward Prosser, president of the Bankers Trust Company, was haled before the Thompson Legislative Committee at 6 o'clock last night to explain why Perley Morse, the committee's accountant, had been stopped in his examination of the McCall accounts by the trust company earlier in the day. Mr. Prosser appeared greatly excited as he appeared before the committee, with Sergeant-at-Arms Houghtaling, half a dozen process servers and a lawyer in his entourage. Following Mr. Prosser's testimony a big sensation was produced by the committee for to-day's session.

Mr. Prosser was an unwilling witness. The sergeant-at-arms reported that, after endeavoring for half an hour to persuade Mr. Prosser to leave his office voluntarily, he was finally compelled to tell the trust company head that he would have to take him by force. Prosser then capitulated, and, with his attorney and the half dozen process servers, marched up to the rooms of the New York County Lawyers' Association, where the committee is holding its hearings.

Senator Thompson, chairman of the committee, lost no time in assailing Mr. Prosser. He demanded to know why the accountant had been allowed to examine the books and papers on Tuesday and Wednesday, and was suddenly stopped yesterday.

Trying to Stall Inquiry, Is Charged. "You are trying to stall this investigation," snapped Senator Thompson, "and I don't purpose to let you do it. Look at your attorney over there, smiling. He's smiling because he thinks I think he is clever. Don't you know that a subpoena was served on your company on Tuesday requiring that all books and papers relating to the accounts of Edward E. McCall, Ella Gaynor McCall and John C. McCall, special, be turned over to our accountant for examination, and that after examining them on Tuesday and Wednesday he was prevented from getting them to-day?"

Mr. Prosser pleaded ignorance. He declared that he hadn't known of the subpoena or that the McCall accounts were wanted until half an hour before, when the sergeant-at-arms walked into his office with another subpoena. "What!" said Senator Thompson, "Do

you mean to say that an accountant has been examining books and papers in your bank for two days, and you know nothing about it?"

This was so, Mr. Prosser declared. "Well, I want you to produce those books right now," demanded Senator Thompson. "We want no more fooling about it. I feel provoked at the liberties that have been taken with this committee."

Mr. Prosser pleaded that that would be out of the question because the vaults were locked with time locks and other devices, which made it impossible to get them open until this morning. He promised, however, to let the accountant have the books at 9 o'clock this morning.

Committee in Earnest.

"I want those books," said Senator Thompson firmly, "and I want them tomorrow morning. I want you to understand that this committee is not to be tampered with. If you promise that your accountant can get them at 9 o'clock tomorrow morning that will be satisfactory, and I won't press you for them to-night. All we want is time enough to look into them."

Mr. Prosser said he had planned a shooting trip for this morning and he asked the Senator to let him go, provided an officer of the trust company familiar with reasons for stopping the examination appeared before the committee. Senator Thompson gave his consent.

Senator Thompson declined to tell what the Senator was that is promised for to-day, but it is not unlikely that it will have to do with the ownership of the 387 shares of Kings County Light, Heat and Power Company stock which McCall declared he turned over to his wife when he became chairman of the Public Service Commission.

Public Service Commissioner Robert Colgate Wood was another witness who came in for a vigorous tongue lashing from Senator Thompson. He was on the witness stand most of the day, and his evasive answers so provoked the chairman that he threatened to prefer charges against Wood before morning if he did not answer in the prescribed way.

Said He Didn't Believe Witness.

At one stage of his testimony the answers to questions came from Wood so reluctantly that Senator Thompson frankly told the Commissioner that he did not believe him.

The committee was particularly anxious to find out about Wood's ownership of stock in the American Sanitary Supply Company, of which he was vice-president, and which placed slot machines with towels in railroad stations. Wood's memory was particularly hazy about this stock, except in one particular, and that was that he had paid \$5,000 for it and then sold it for \$1 to John A. Maher, son of the vice-president and general manager of the Third Avenue Railroad Company, when he was appointed to the Public Service Commission.

At first Wood testified that he had bought fifty shares of the preferred stock in the company and received an equal amount of the common stock as a bonus. Later he admitted that he had bought 500 shares of the preferred at \$10 a share and received the same amount of common as a present.

"So that," said Senator Lawson, "you sold stock which had a par value of \$10,000 for \$1?"

Wood's answer was that the stock was worthless anyway, but that the real reason he had sold it to Mr. Maher, who was president of the company, was that the company was negotiating with a railroad in this city and that he felt he could not, as a Public Service Commissioner, hold it.

"What was the name of the railroad?" asked Senator Thompson.

"I can't remember just now," answered Wood.

Wood said he wasn't.

"Well," said Senator Thompson, "are you so rich that you cannot remember the details of a transaction in which you lost \$4,999?"

Wood again endeavored to evade an answer, and Senator Thompson, losing patience, accused him of stalling. "If you'll let it come a little quicker," the Senator said, "I'll have more confidence in you."

Wood said that the only other person he had spoken to about the sale of his sanitary company stock was Warren Leslie, a brother-in-law of Senator O'Grady, who was a director in the company.

Wood later produced a letter from John A. Maher, dated June 12, 1914, enclosing \$1 in payment for the American Sanitary Supply Company stock "which you turned over to me on Wednesday last." He couldn't remember whether the letter had come through the mail or had been carried to him by messenger.

Finally, said Mr. Maher had brought it to him personally.

The committee decided to investigate the agreement further on its own hook. Despite Wood's assertion that the stock was worthless, Nelson J. Waterbury, president of the Railroad, Steamboat and Sanitary Supply Company, testified that he had an agreement with Wood to sell the stock to his company under which he paid it a royalty for the use of its patents. He promised to produce a copy of the agreement to-day.

The committee made no secret of the fact that their inquiry into Wood's ownership of the sanitary company's stock is for the purpose of determining whether or not his transfer of it to Maher was a subterfuge similar to that with which they charged Chairman McCall.

Tracing Construction Stock.

Wood also said, after much questioning, that he sold his stock in the Northwestern Construction Company, which was the sole owner, to his brother, who sold it to W. C. Banks for \$3,000, and applied the money to the part payment of a loan which he, the Commissioner, had obtained from the bank.

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LIGHTER FAMINE STARVING TRAFFIC

New York Railroad Terminals
Blocked with Rush
of Goods from West.

WILDERNESS OF CARS
ON JERSEY MEADOWS

Panama Slides Increase Conges-
tion—Boom Part of New
Prosperity Era.

Next to an ocean carrier with a guaranteed right of way over the water-blocked ocean lanes, the humble, snub-nosed lighter has become about the most sought after thing in New York.

It is the old law of supply and demand over again. There aren't enough lighters to go 'round—and so for three hundred miles around the city side tracks and built-to-order spurs are choked with loaded freight cars which have no place to go and nothing to do when they get there.

The lighterage question is the one weak link in the chain of preparation for the trunk railroads when they forecast the present overwhelming rush of traffic out of the West. All records have been broken, and his shipments keep mounting. With old rolling stock rebuilt and new stock ready for use, the roads have not yet reached the limit of their resources—haven't reached it, for the fact is, they are being dragged away by the scores and hundreds every hour there are always two cars fresh from the West arriving to bid for the precious track space of each that leaves.

From Weehawken to Bayonne the meadows are box car wildernesses. Both sides of the river, north as far as Albany, are lined with thousands and hundreds of cars, and on the tracks all the way to Pittsburgh are still other thousands of cars. In them are all manner of commodities, agricultural and manufactured, from barley to more locomotives.

A good share of the stalled freight, of course, consists of war munitions and supplies consigned by the War Department. But that is to be expected. The whole of it. Many thousands of cars loaded are consigned to South America. Uncle Sam's response to the influx of orders from the southern republics diverted to us when Germany and her allies were in the grip of the European trade rivals were forced to put up their commercial shutters.

Another cause of the glut, railroad men say, is the number of recent slides in the Panama Canal. Because of the slides material that was to have gone to Russia by way of the Pacific and Vladivostok has been rerouted and now swells the crush in the New York terminal yards.

In the Croton and Greenville yards and all the rest of them hundreds of short-sleeved men are at work night and day at the special new telephone exchange. The men are getting tired. Their duty is to bear the brunt of the onslaughts of worried shippers. And, with troubled crews at work, the best the record office men can promise is: "Yes, we know. Take care of it soon's we can."

Cars containing livestock and after that perishable freight are getting first attention and moving with a briskness close to normal.

"The big trouble is the lack of lighters," said an official of the Erie Railroad yesterday. "The roads have plenty of cars and there were a normal outlet through the Eastern terminals would have no trouble in handling all the business the increasingly prosperous country could provide."

"For instance, our road has been getting ready for the rush for more than a year. We foresaw what was coming and while there was time took measures to see we should not be swamped."

"I don't think the boom is due entirely to the war order business. It's just the dawnings of a country-wide new era of prosperity, and the prosperity is bound to remain even after the war orders have stopped coming."

Governor Asked to Aid
in Fight for State Hay

Commissioner John J. Dillon, of the New York State Department of Food and Markets, announced last night that he had sent telegrams to Governor Whitman asking him to take steps to force the Lackawanna Railroad to keep its agreement with him to deliver ten carloads of alfalfa in this city by November 30.

The Commissioner said that the Hay Dealers' Association was behind the plan to keep the New York produced alfalfa out. He said that the Onondaga Alfalfa Growers' Association and the Patrons' Cooperative Association of Cayuga County appealed to him several weeks ago for assistance in marketing their 30,000 tons surplus product. He agreed to try, and tried to arrange, first with the New York Central and then the Lehigh, to bring the hay, but they refused.

Then he went to the Lackawanna, and this company agreed to deliver the hay, the first ten carloads to be here November 30, but yesterday he received word from Syracuse that the railroad refused to accept the consignment. He went to Mr. Platt, traffic man of the road, he said, and was informed that the hay could not be accepted because of the congested condition of the line.

"But I know it was simply an excuse not to handle it," Mr. Dillon said. "Our department is for the purpose of getting New York State products by a short cut from the producer to the consumer. The produce men butted us when we started our campaign to get New York alfalfa to the New York City market, and now the hay men are butting us. We are going to create a New York City market for New York State alfalfa."

"It is a question of whether these speculators are going to let us have the New York State products out. I had planned, and so advertised, to sell the ten carloads of hay without reserve at public auction on the Lackawanna dock, Twenty-eighth Street and Hudson River, Tuesday, at 10:30. I intend to make every effort to hold this sale."

Mr. Dillon's telegram to Governor Whitman read in part: "The hay is loaded at Syracuse, but the Lackawanna officials have placed an embargo on hay. The Hay Dealers' Association has protested against delivery, and the Lackawanna officials have repudiated their verbal contract with this department to deliver the hay at time specified."

"The tracks and terminals of the railroads are crowded with hay from points outside the state, and the farmers producing hay in New York are discriminated against and kept out of this market by the railroads in the interests of the Dealers' Association. Will you use your good offices through the Public Service Commission or otherwise to help this department deliver our hay for the farmers of this state?"

WATSON HIS OWN LAWYER

Augusta, Ga., Nov. 26.—Thomas E. Watson, Georgia editor and onetime Populist candidate for President, was arraigned in the Federal court here to-day on an indictment charging him with sending obscene matter through the mails. Watson, acting as his own attorney, entered a demurrer to the indictment and moved to quash it on the grounds that it was illegally drawn. The demurrer was overruled by Judge Lumbdin, and selecting a jury was started.

The indictment, containing four counts, charges Watson with having mailed issues of certain of his publications during 1911 and 1912 which contained matter prohibited by law from the mails.

WON'T PAINT CITY RED, SAY VISITORS

Wilmington Party Harbors
No Millionaires, Organ-
izer Contends.

21 COUPLES HERE
ONLY FOR PLEASURE

Delaware Dutch Treasures in New
York on Two-Day Jaunt.
at \$35 a Throw.

Twenty-one middle-aged, respectable looking couples—one had a baby with 'em—arrived at the Pennsylvania Station last night, and no one would have known that this conventional party was the crowd of millionaires from Wilmington who were going to paint Broadway in rainbow hue if he hadn't been warned beforehand to this effect in many columns of print.

A bevy of waiting journalists, hoping there would be dollar signs engraved on the windows of the two private Pullmans which housed the party on the trip from Delaware and expecting every man to appear in a silk top hat with a dollar Havana perfecto in his mouth, was frightfully disappointed; but they weren't nearly so disappointed as John J. Rascoe, treasurer of the E. I. du Pont de Nemours Powder Company, who planned the trip and was said to be financing it from sudden and extraordinary profits made in "war brides."

Mr. Rascoe was indignant, he was angry and he was heartbroken, for he feared that the unexpected publicity given his trip would spoil the good time for the ladies. At the Hotel Astor, where the party went from the station, he voiced his woes.

"The whole story that appeared in the Friday papers was a frame-up," he said. "There isn't a millionaire in this party. We're just a crowd of plain folks, American people, and we came to New York on a little holiday to see some shows and have a good time. We're not sports; we're home-going married couples. Furthermore, no one of us has made any stupendous gains in war stocks. There are only three employees of the Du Pont concern in the party."

"Is it true you are several times a millionaire?" Mr. Rascoe was asked. "I wish I was, one time," he answered, adding that there was no truth in the story that he owned a \$250,000 house. His house was seven miles out in the country, he said, a frame dwelling, fifty years old.

It was an utter falsehood that he was paying all the bills, he insisted also. The trip was a "Dutch treat" affair, and each man paid the expenses of his own family. Mr. Rascoe estimated that the expenses of each couple would not exceed \$70. He said that the twenty-one couples in the party had known each other for four years, meeting regularly at a Friday night dancing class.

At that, the party is not going to have such a poor time. The visitors went to "Alone at Last" last night, with a supper and dance in the Rose Room of the Astor afterward. To-day they will breakfast at leisure, and go to the Hippodrome in the afternoon. Dinner will be served in the Biltmore. Dinner and the "Dutch treat" will be the evening attraction, with a supper dance atop the Forty-fourth Street Theatre following. To-morrow will be comparatively quiet, an auto trip to Nipponchen Terrace at Spuyten Duyvil Creek, being the only event on the card. The party will leave on the 3:34 for Wilmington and will break up after a supper at the Hotel du Pont there.

Here is a list of the visiting merry-makers: Mr. and Mrs. John J. Rascoe, Mr. and Mrs. Frank J. Lackey, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Taite, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Warner, Mr. and Mrs. Bert Smith, Mr. and Mrs. James Sirlin, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Moore, Mr. and Mrs. William A. Barr, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Mode, Mr. and Mrs. F. A. Wardenburg, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. C. Wardenburg, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Butler, Mr. and Mrs. C. I. B. Henning, Mr. and Mrs. Winthrop Wood, Mr. and Mrs. I. S. Jenckes, Dr. and Mrs. Julian Adair, Mr. and Mrs. R. Wood, Mr. and Mrs. I. Frank Murphy, Mr. and Mrs. Edward M. Phillips, Mr. and Mrs. William Poole, Mr. and Mrs. Leslie P. Mahony, with baby and nurse.

BATTLE'S LIBEL TO COST \$1

Mrs. Bishop's \$50,000 Action Against
Lawyer Based on Letter.

George Gordon Battle, law partner of Senator O'Grady, must pay Mrs. Abigail Hancock Bishop \$1 damages for libel. A jury in the Supreme Court yesterday rendered a verdict for that amount in a \$50,000 suit brought by Mrs. Bishop, the divorced wife of James Cunningham Bishop, a banker.

The action was based on a letter written by Battle to Charles S. Whitman when he was District Attorney, saying that Mrs. Bishop had been committed by a Supreme Court justice for overindulgence in liquor and that she was of irrational mind. On the trial of the suit Battle said such a commitment had been signed by former Justice McLean, but was not served on Mrs. Bishop, because she was sent to Europe. Battle was counsel for Mrs. Leila Gwathmey, correspondent in the Bishop divorce case.

DINNER FOR YALE BALL TEAM

Heroes of Diamond To Be Guests of
Old Grads at Delmonico's.

The Yale baseball team, which had a considerably more satisfactory season than their brothers of the gridiron, will be the collective guest of a group of old grads to-night at a dinner in Delmonico's. The thirty men of the baseball squad, there will be about thirty other guests.

Among the speakers will be Chauncey M. Depue, Theodore P. Shontz, Justice Luke D. Stapleton, of the Supreme Court, and Morgan J. O'Brien, Louis S. Middlebrook, captain of the team, is on the programme to do a little talking himself.

THIEVES BUSY IN FLATBUSH

Rob Home Next Door to District At-
torney Cropsey's.

Burglars have been busy in Flatbush for the last few days, and numerous petty thefts have been reported to the police, including one which occurred two nights ago next door to the home of District Attorney James C. Cropsey. Thieves entered 1710 Alhambra Road and robbed Monty W. Burd, manager of the American Drygoods Company, of \$100 in trinkets.

Nelson P. Lewis, chief engineer of the Board of Estimate, who lives a few blocks away, reported yesterday that his home had been entered, but nothing was taken, as the men were scared away. Last Sunday night Charles Hufschmidt, a Nassau Street jeweller, was robbed of \$1,000 while his family was at dinner at his home, 609 East Seventeenth Street.

ONE MARTIN TOO MANY DRAGS 3 INTO COURT

Mr. Martin Says Landlord Mar-
tin Stole Mrs. Martin's Love.

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J.M. Gidding & Co.
564-566 - 568 Fifth Avenue - 467 - 479 Sts.
ARE NOW HOLDING
Special Sales
of
Winter Fashions in
TAILLEUR & DEMI-TAILLEUR SUITS
DAY-TIME & EVENING GOWNS
COATS - WRAPS - MANTEAUX
MILLINERY - AND - PARIS FURS
At
CONSIDERABLE REDUCTIONS
IMPORTED MODELS AT ABOUT HALF PRICE
Charge Purchases Made Between Nov. and Dec. 1st, Billed Jan. 1st.

KRANICH & BACH
Ultra-Quality PIANOS
AND PLAYER PIANOS
"Step into a real piano factory and make your choice."
233 East 23d St. Harlem
Warehouses: 16 W. 125th St.
The name of Kranich & Bach on a piano or player piano stands for more than mere reputation—it stands for all of Artistic Excellence that can be achieved by master-craftsmanship, animated by intense and unceasing effort to improve and perfect—it stands for actual musical supremacy—a supremacy that is recognized by cultured musicians everywhere, and that is apposite to any one who will investigate and intelligently choose between real and fancied values.

"Lazy Day"
One Day in Every Week
That's Badly Used
Deep down in the make-up of every one of us is a streak of laziness. In some it is just below the surface, for they keep little curb on it and its growth. In others it is not so apparent; one might almost be led to believe it was not there. But it's there just the same.
Now, the crying shame of it is that, hide it as we may, there is one day every week when most of us give in to it.
Sunday—
That is the one day when laziness reigns supreme. Not that all of us do nothing all day, mind you, for many show the greatest energy. But it is only in pleasure-seeking, which is laziness in another guise.
Of course we need pleasures—we need rest, and it is a mighty good thing for us to enjoy these on Sundays.
But—why give up the entire day to mere bodily relaxation? Why not spend a little time in benefiting ourselves—the community in which we live—by going to Church?
One hour out of the entire week is all we need to spend in Church, and it will be an hour well spent.
Some people, you may be one—believe that individually they do not need to go to Church. They believe in religion and they lead Christian lives.
Do they realize how badly—how very badly—the Church needs them? No one even pretends that as a people—as a community—as a world—we would be better off without the Church. Everyone understands the great influence for morality, for suppression of lawlessness, the Church exerts.
What everyone does not realize is that without personal support, the example of personal attendance, this influence is lessened—the good influence of the Church in the community is minimized.
We allow our lazy instinct to blind us to this fact. It is quite probable that you—a good many of us, in fact—never saw it in this light before, yet it is obviously true.
So why not make up your mind to put this little hour out of a lazy twenty-four to good advantage?
Why not go to Church every Sunday? Do it this week—start now and

Go to Church To-morrow